

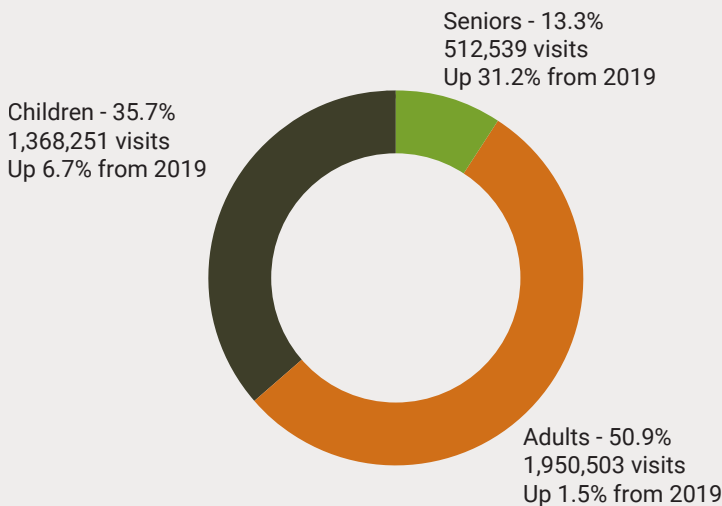
2020 marked the 10th consecutive year with over 3 million visits, a trend that began post recession. The emergency food system pivoted to new service models to address the challenges of the year, and in return 3,831,293 adults, seniors and children made visits to food shelves -- a new record high.

Last year, Minnesotans made **3,831,293 visits to food shelves.**

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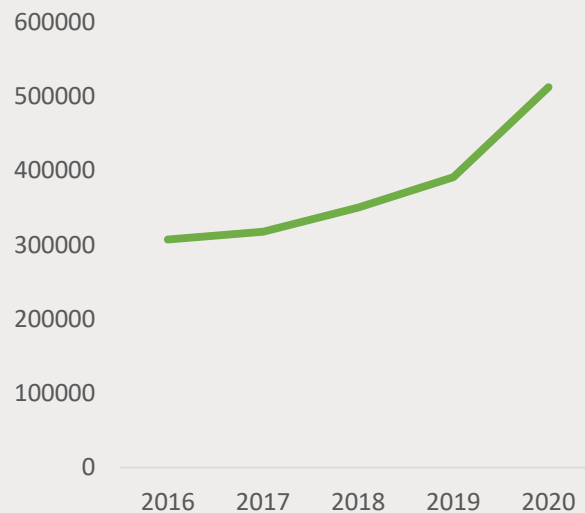


Food Shelf Visits by Age, 2020



Food Shelf Visits by Seniors, 2016-2020

Seniors (adults 65 years and older) are the fastest growing group of food shelf users. From 2019 to 2020, the number of food shelf visits by seniors rose 31.2%.

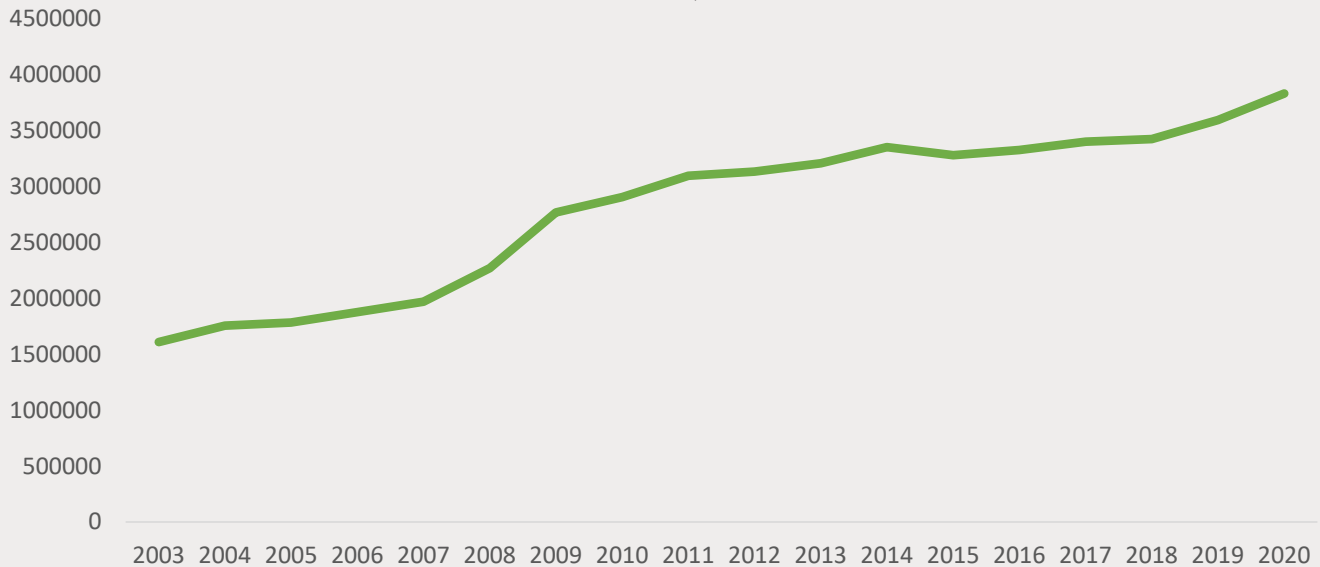


Source: Food shelf reports to MN DHS. Analysis by Hunger Solutions.

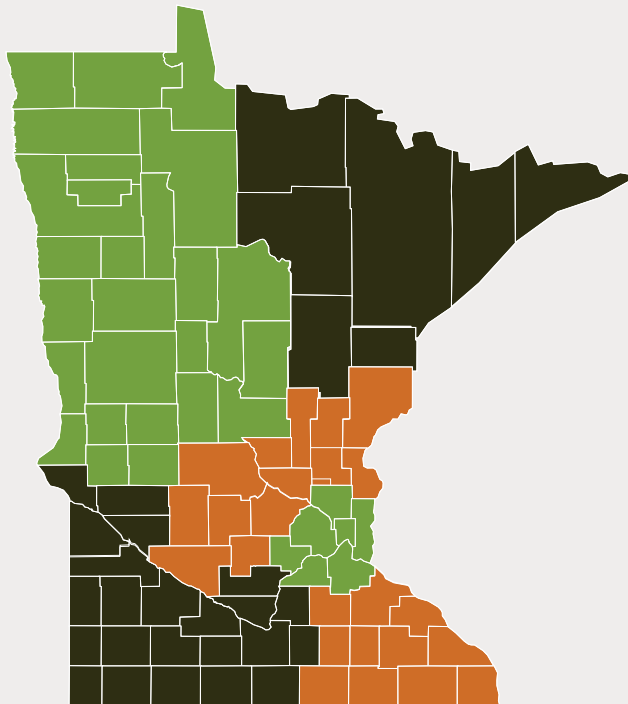
A record high number of visits

Three million visits per year has long been a “new normal” for Minnesota’s food shelves, however 2020 was nothing but “normal”. Food shelves around the state found new ways to adapt to the COVID-19 pandemic with new service models, increased hours of operation and delivery and transportation resources. The increased access through service changes, and the economic impact of the pandemic brought record number of visits to the food shelves in Minnesota.

Food shelf visits, 2003-2020



Source: Food shelf reports to MN DHS. Analysis by Hunger Solutions Minnesota.



Food shelf visits by region, 2020

	% total visits 2019	% of population
Central	9.0%	13.0%
Metro	65.1%	55.0%
NE	4.6%	6.0%
NW	7.4%	10.0%
SE	7.3%	9.0%
SW	7.1%	7.0%

The number of food shelf visits in each region of the state roughly follow the percentage of the population that lives there. It doesn't matter if you live in a rural area, a small town, or urban area - hunger is distributed evenly throughout the state.

Sources: Food shelf reports to MN DHS. Analysis by Hunger Solutions Latest annual estimates of Minnesota and its 87 counties' population and households, 2019. (Excel file, released August 2020.)